

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- 5           (a) coating the ear shell with a UV-curable substance;
- (b) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (c) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (d) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance; and
- 10           (e) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a stereo-lithography resin.

3. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (a) through (f).

15           4. The method of claim 1, wherein the step (d) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

5. The method of claim 5, wherein the step (d) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

6. A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (b) through (g);
- 5 (b) coating the ear shell with a UV-curable substance;
- (c) permitting the UV-curable substance to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (d) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (e) removing any excess of the UV-curable substance; and
- 10 (f) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the UV-curable substance further comprises a stereo-lithography resin.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein the step (e) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

- 15 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the step (e) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.

10. A method of producing a high gloss exterior finish on a hearing aid ear shell, the ear shell having a vent, comprising the steps of:

- (a) pre-sizing the ear shell thickness to account for increased thickness added by steps (b) through (g);
- 5 (b) coating the ear shell with a stereo-lithography resin;
- (c) permitting the stereo-lithography resin to drain off the ear shell, leaving a thin uncured layer on the ear shell;
- (d) exposing the ear shell to UV light to cure the thin uncured layer;
- (e) removing any excess of the stereo-lithography resin; and
- 10 (f) exposing the ear shell to UV light a second time.

11. The method of claim 11, wherein the step (e) is performed by rinsing the ear shell in an alcohol bath.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the step (e) is performed with exposure of the ear shell to ultrasound in the alcohol bath.